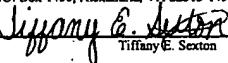




**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No.: 10/702,297 )  
Filed: November 6, 2003 )  
For: MECHANISM FOR )  
SWITCHING BETWEEN CLOSED )  
CENTER AND OPEN CENTER )  
HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS )  
Applicant: HARWATH et al. )  
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned )  
Attorney Ref: 913/40666/306 )

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 4, 2004.  
  
Tiffany E. Sexton

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of candor under 37 CFR §1.56 and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, Applicant is not aware of any material prior art but, in an abundance of caution and candor, Applicant submits the present Information Disclosure Statement and the attached Form PTO-1449.

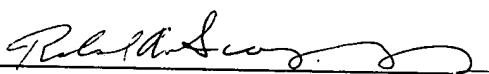
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date and before receipt of the first Office Action on the merits and constitutes a bona fide attempt to comply with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, the presentation of this information shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR §1.56 exists, or as an admission that the information cited in this statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

Should the Examiner believe a fee is required, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized and requested to charge the fee to the deposit account of the undersigned firm, Account No. 20-1495.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 4, 2004

By: 

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Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449 (Rev. 2-83)	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 913/40666/306	SERIAL NO. 10/702,297
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT: Harwarth et al.	
(Use several sheets if necessary)		FILING DATE: November 6, 2003	GROUP Not Yet Assigned

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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